

Production of HBI and Sponge Iron

*659. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:
SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether hot briquetted iron (HBI) and sponge iron required for indigenous consumption are in short supply;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to import scrap iron for the production of HBI and sponge iron; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) and (b). Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) and sponge iron are substitute materials for steel melting scrap used for steel making in Electric Furnace Units. Since steel melting scrap is imported in large quantities to meet the requirements of the electric furnace units, Government have been making efforts to increase the production of sponge iron/HBI in the country and thereby reducing scrap imports. The production of sponge iron has increased from 3 lakh tonnes in 1989-90 to about 12 lakh tonnes in 1991-92. In order to meet their raw material requirements, under industries can also directly import steel melting scrap and sponge iron/HBI.

(c) and (d). Sponge Iron/HBI is produced from iron ore/iron ore pellets and not from iron scrap.

Air Station, Kolhapur

*661. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of INFORMA-

TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the construction of building installation of machinery and maintenance of the All India Radio Station set up at Kolhapur in Maharashtra;

(b) when was the radio station completed in all aspects;

(c) whether the radio station has since been functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). The details of expenditure incurred upto February, 1992 on the construction of building and installation of plant and machinery of the New Radio Station at Kolhapur are as given below:

(i) Building including the civil and electrical works-Rs. 84.42 lakhs (approximate)

(ii) Plant & Machinery-Rs. 176.00 lakhs (approximate)

No amount has been spent on maintenance as the Station has not become functional.

The radio station at Kolhapur is technically ready and is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position.

[Translation]

International News Bulletin

*662. SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private company has been entrusted with the task of producing daily international news bulletin for the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other programmes proposed to be entrusted to the private companies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No decision has been taken so far.

[English]

Reconstitution of Air Programme Advisory Committee

*663. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from the Government of West Bengal regarding reconstitution of Programme Advisory Committee of the All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of West Bengal

have desired modification of rules on constitution of Programme Advisory Committees.

(c) The State Government have been requested to make specific suggestions on the level and extent of participation by them on the said committees.

[Translation]

Postal System in Tribal Areas of Gujarat

*664. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal system is functioning properly in tribal dominated districts of Gujarat particularly in Bharuch and Baroda;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) To further improve and expand the postal system.

(i) State Transport bus service introduced with effect from 1.4.1992 is being put to use for conveyance of mail between Chhota Udaipur and Kawand, and Kawand and Kudipuri in Baroda district from 1.4.1992.

(ii) Proposals for opening a few more post offices in the tribal areas of Bharoach and Baroda are being processed.